

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /122 W

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R 211431Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0105

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PBOR, IC, JN, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN REACTION TO EXTENSION OF ICELANDIC FISHING
LIMITS

REF: OSLO 2413

1. COMMENTING ON ICELAND'S EXTENSION OF ITS FISHING LIMITS TO 200
MILES, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND HAS SAID LAST WEEK THAT NORWAY
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WOULD TRY TO INSURE THAT ITS FISHERMEN RESPECTED THE NEW LIMITS.

HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT ICELAND HAD SAID IT WOULD NEGOTIATE FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN THE 200-MILE LIMIT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND SAID THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE INITIATED WITH ICELAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. FRYDENLUND ALSO NOTED WITH SATISFACTION ICELAND'S RECOGNITION OF THE MEDIAN LINE PRINCIPLE FOR ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES OF SEA AREAS. HE DID NOT COMMENT ON THE PORTION OF THE ICELANDIC ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH PROVIDES THAT WHERE DISTANCES BETWEEN ICELAND'S BASE LINES AND JAN MAYEN ARE LESS THAN 400 NAUTICAL MILES THE NEW 200-MILE FISHING LIMITS WILL NOT BE ENFORCED. PER TRESSELT OF THE LEGAL OFFICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISED EMBASSY, HOWEVER, THAT NORWAY CONTINUES TO CLAIM THAT JAN MAJEN IS AN INHABITED ISLAND AND THAT THE OFFSHORE BOUNDARY BETWEEN JAN MAYEN AND ICELAND SHOULD BE THE MEDIAN LINE. AT THE SAME TIME, TRESSELT SAID, NORWAY WAS GRATIFIED THAT ICELAND HAD NOT ASSERTED SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AREA BETWEEN ICELAND AND JAN MAYEN BEYOND THE MEDIAN LINE. HE ADMITTED THAT THE ICELANDIC ANNOUNCEMENT IMPLIED THE EXTENSION OF SUCH SOVEREIGNTY, BUT POINTED OUT THAT INTERNATIONAL LAW ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTS AND THAT THE ICELANDIC ANNOUNCEMENT PRECLUDED MAKING ICELANDIC SOVEREIGNTY EFFECTIVE IN THE CONTESTED AREA.

3. NORWAY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THE ICELANDIC EXTENSION AND HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW IT WILL REPLY TO THE NOTIFICATION WHEN IT IS RECEIVED BECAUSE OF ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE AND JAN MAYEN. THE NORWEGIANS WERE TOLD IN EARLY JUNE THAT ICELAND WOULD EXTEND TO 200-MILES IN JULY (SEE OSLO 2413). AT THE TIME THEY WERE ASSURED THAT ICELAND WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN NEGOTIATING A NEW FISHING AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY. PRESUMABLY THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE PRESENT NORWAY/ICELAND AGREEMENT FOR FISHING IN ICELAND'S 50-MILE ZONE WHICH EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 13TH. THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY SATISFACTORY, AND TRESSELT ANTICIPATES NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IF ICELAND TAKES A SIMILAR APPROACH TO ITS 200-MILE LIMITS.

4. TRESSELT NOTED THAT FRYDENLUND'S REACTION TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ICELANDIC EXTENSION HAD BEEN RECEIVED FAVORABLY BY THE ICELANDIC PRESS. IN NORWAY THERE HAS BEEN COMPARATIVELY LITTLE PRESS REACTION OR COMMENT SO FAR REGARDING THE ICELANDIC EXTENSION. THE ICELANDIC ACTION IS, HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO INCREASE PRESSURE FROM NORTHERN NORWAY TO EXTEND NORWAY'S FISHING LIMITS, AND THIS PRESSURE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN LATE SUMMER AND THE FALL WHEN FISHERMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS HOLD THEIR ANNUAL MEETINGS. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS

HAS INDICATED THAT THE ICELANDIC EXTENSION WOULD INCREASE
FOREIGN FISHING ACTIVITY OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST, PER TRESSELT
TENDEED TO DISAGREE. ACCORDING TO TRESSELT, THERE IS RELATIVELY
LITTLE FISHING BETWEEN THE PRESENT 50-MILE ICELANDIC ZONE AND
THE NEW 200-MILE ZONE.

BUCHANAN

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